total amount of Rs. 786 crores would be provided to the mills enabling them to clear the payment of cane price dues to the sugarcane growers.

(ii) In order to boost export of sugar, Government has amended the Sugar Development Act, 1982 to enable it, *inter alia*, to utilize the Sugar Development Fund for defraying expenditure on internal transport charges & neutralization of ocean freight disadvantage to the sugar factories on export shipments of sugar.

Financial package for sugarcane farmers

†2614. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sanctioned Rs. 600 crores from the Sugar Development Fund for the four Sugarcane growing States, namely, Punjab, Haryana, U.P. and Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, whether this is done to assist the sugarcane farmers who were not paid as per the State Advisory Prices (SAP) especially in Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, Government's stand with regard to providing assistance from the said fund to Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Purchase and storage of wheat by FCI

2615. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat purchased by Food Corporation of India and other State agencies during the period April to June, 2003, State-wise and agency-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.